

Amendments to the Claims: This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims:

1. (Withdrawn) An adjustable base for displaying merchandise, the base comprising:

a set of movable deck pieces each forming one of the corners of the base and having an outer edge;

a frame positioned under and in support of the deck pieces, the frame including a telescoping mechanism that permits adjustment of the frame in the horizontal plane and moves the deck pieces;

a removable center plate disposed above and supported by the deck pieces, the center plate providing a flat surface in a horizontal (x-y) plane for supporting merchandise; and

a plurality of casters rotatably attached to the frame facilitating transportation of the base.

2. (Withdrawn) The base of claim 1 further comprising a continuously adjustable securing mechanism for reversibly locking the telescoping mechanism into a predetermined length.

3. (Withdrawn) The base of claim 2 wherein the adjustable securing mechanism comprises a threaded fastener and washer assembly that reversibly engages the telescoping mechanism.

4. (Withdrawn) The base of claim 2 wherein the adjustable securing mechanism comprises a threaded fastener and a cam lever pivotally attached to the threaded fastener to reversibly engage the telescoping mechanism.

5. (Withdrawn) The base of claim 1 further comprising a tether having two ends with the center plate attached to one end of the tether and the other end of the tether attached to another component of the base.

6. (Withdrawn) The base of claim 1 wherein the center plate comprises at least two sections slideably attached to the deck pieces.

7. (Currently Amended) An adjustable base for displaying merchandise, the base comprising:

a set of movable deck pieces each forming a corner of the base, having an outer edge, and providing a flat surface for supporting merchandise, wherein at least two of said deck pieces substantially abut when the base is in a closed position;

a shoulder positioned at each corner of the base under and in support of a respective deck piece, each shoulder having opposing ends;

a tubular leg extending from each of the opposing ends of each shoulder to the outer edge of the respective deck piece, further supporting the deck piece, and having a single extended slot;

a dowel slidably received in each leg, each dowel having a projection engaging the slot of the leg in which the dowel is received; and

a caster rotatably attached to each shoulder facilitating transportation of the base.

8. (Original) The base of claim 7 wherein the projection comprises a threaded fastener reversibly tightened to secure the dowel to the tubular leg.

9. (Previously Amended) An adjustable base for displaying merchandise, the base comprising:

a set of movable deck pieces each forming a corner of the base, having an outer edge, and providing a flat surface for supporting merchandise;

a shoulder positioned at each corner of the base under and in support of a respective deck piece, each shoulder having opposing ends;

a tubular leg extending from each of the opposing ends of each shoulder to the outer edge of the respective deck piece, further supporting the deck piece, and having a single extended slot;

a dowel slidably received in each leg, each dowel having a projection engaging the slot of the leg in which the dowel is received; and

a caster rotatably attached to each shoulder facilitating transportation of the base;

wherein the projection comprises a threaded fastener reversibly tightened to secure the dowel to the tubular leg; and

wherein the projection further comprises a quick-release cam lever, the cam lever pivotally attached to the threaded fastener and reversibly closed to secure the dowel to the tubular leg.

10. (Withdrawn) The base of claim 7 further comprising a removable center plate disposed above and supported by the deck pieces, the center plate providing a flat surface in a horizontal (x-y) plane for supporting merchandise.

11. (Withdrawn) The base of claim 10 further comprising a tether having two ends with the center plate attached to one end of the tether and the other end of the tether attached to another component of the base.

12. (Withdrawn) The base of claim 10 wherein the center plate comprises at least two sections slideably attached to the deck pieces.

13. (Withdrawn) An adjustable base for displaying merchandise, the base having four corners and comprising:

a set of movable deck pieces each forming one of the corners of the base and having an outer edge;

an L-shaped corner member, having an outer edge and an inner edge, positioned at each corner of the base and attached to a respective deck piece;

a shoulder positioned at each corner of the base under and in support of a respective deck piece, each shoulder having opposing ends;

a tubular leg extending from each of the opposing ends of each shoulder to the outer edge of the respective deck piece, further supporting the deck piece, and having an extended slot;

a dowel slideably received in each leg, each dowel having an aperture aligned with the slot of the leg in which the dowel is received;

a projection positioned in the slot and received by the aperture for reversibly securing the dowel to the leg;

a caster rotatably attached to each shoulder facilitating transportation of the base; and

a removable center plate disposed above and supported by the deck pieces, the center plate providing a flat surface in a horizontal (x-y) plane for supporting merchandise.

14. (Withdrawn) The base of claim 13 further comprising a tether having two ends with the center plate attached to one end of the tether and the other end of the tether attached to another component of the base.

15. (Withdrawn) The base of claim 13, wherein each L-shaped member has a chamfer in its interior edge.

16. (Withdrawn) The base of claim 13, wherein the center plate is slideably connected to at least one deck piece.

17. (Withdrawn) The base of claim 16, wherein the center plate has a channel and the at least one deck piece has a hole aligned with the channel, the center plate slideably connected to the at least one deck piece by passing a fastener through the hole and channel.

18. (Withdrawn) The base of claim 13, wherein the center plate comprises at least two sections slideably attached to the deck pieces.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) The base of claim ~~19~~7, wherein said deck pieces are shaped to perpendicularly align and abut when the base is in the closed position.